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## Philosophers to Examine Professional Responsibility in UD Colloquium

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university of dayton

# news release

PHILOSOPHERS TO EXAMINE PROFESSIONAL  
RESPONSIBILITY IN UD COLLOQUIUM ON  
OCTOBER 27 AND 28

DAYTON, Ohio, October 20, 1978 --- "Collective Responsibility in the Professions" is the subject to be discussed at the eighth annual Philosophy Colloquium at the University of Dayton on October 27 and 28. Papers on subjects dealing with collective responsibility in the health care and corporate system professions will be presented by various philosophers from around the country.

According to Professor Raymond M. Herbenick, chairman of the UD Philosophy Department, which is sponsoring the event, the Colloquium is uniquely important. The areas of corporate and medical ethics are open to lively philosophical debate at this time, with little recent work having been done concerning these topics. Hence, the papers to be presented at the Colloquium can be considered pioneer works in these fields.

The main issue to be discussed is the concept of collective responsibility in contrast to individual responsibility in the professional realm. Herbenick cites as an example the recent train derailment in Miamisburg, Ohio, thought to be caused by a weight imbalance in one of the flatcars. Who should be held responsible for the accident: the engineer of the train, the owner of the train, the men responsible for loading the car, or perhaps the corporation to whom the cargo belonged? If responsibility or blame can be determined here, can that person, persons, or corporation also be held accountable for the three deaths that were a result of the derailment? In many cases, "It is difficult to assign the blame," Herbenick says, "but how else can we improve the situation?" The presentations will attempt to answer the question of responsibility and

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blame, as well as stress the importance of an established code of ethics and behavior in the professions.

The Health Care session begins Friday at 3 p.m. with the presentation of a paper concerning the "Elements in a Theory of Collective Responsibility" by George F. Sefler of the Philosophy Department at Mansfield State College, followed by James L. Muyskens' (Hunter College) "Collective Responsibility and the Nursing Profession." Beginning at 7:30 p.m. that evening, Lawrence P. Ulrich of UD's Philosophy Department will speak on the "Models of Responsibility for the Health Care Profession," to be followed by "Physician and the Community of Physicians: An Account of Responsibilities" presented by H. Tristram Englehardt, Jr., of the Joseph and Rosemary Kennedy Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction and Bioethics, Georgetown University.

Joseph S. Ellin of Western Michigan University will open the Corporate System Session Saturday morning at 10 a.m. with a reading of his paper entitled "The Justice of Collective Responsibility," after which Patricia H. Werhane of Loyola University in Chicago will discuss "Formal Organizations, Economic Freedom and Moral Agency." During the afternoon session, beginning at 2 p.m., Kenneth Kipnis of Lake Forest College will read his paper entitled "Professional Responsibility and the Responsibility of Profession;" and a member of the Philosophy Department at Villanova University, John H. Fielder, will present his paper on "Collective Responsibility in Engineering."

"Moral Responsibility and the Corporation" will be presented by Richard T. DeGeorge of the University of Kansas, beginning at 8 p.m. The Colloquium will conclude with a social for all those in attendance.

All sessions, which are free and open to the public, will be held in Kennedy Union, Room 331. Visiting philosophers Richard T. DeGeorge, Ph.D., University Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at the University of Kansas, and H. Tristram Englehardt, Jr., M.D., Ph.D., Rosemary Kennedy, Professor of the Philosophy of Medicine at Georgetown University, will be presiding.